



PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 20496-482

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Engl et al. CONFIRMATION NO.: 7141
SERIAL NO.: 10/539,099 GROUP NO.: 1725
FILING DATE: January 30, 2006 EXAMINER: Lin, Kuang Y
TITLE: Method for Producing a Steel Product

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This paper responds to the Restriction Requirement mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on September 29, 2006, for which the shortened statutory period was set to expire on October 29, 2006. Applicant hereby requests a five-month extension of time until March 29, 2007. Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge the \$2,160.00 five-month extension fee to Attorney's Deposit Account No.: 16-2500. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No.: 16-2500.

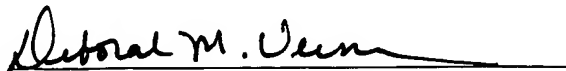
The Examiner has required Applicants to elect one of the two perceived patentably distinct groups of claims: Group I (claims 1-16), drawn to a method of casting steel strip and Group II (claim 17) drawn to a steel sheet. Applicants hereby elect, Group I (Claims 1-16), thereby withdrawing claim 17 from consideration.

Applicants respectfully request that claims 1-16 now proceed promptly to examination.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 08, 2007
Reg. No.: 55, 699

Tel. No.: (617) 526-9836
Fax No.: (617) 526-9899


Deborah M. Vernon
Attorney for the Applicants
Proskauer Rose LLP
One International Place
Boston, MA 02110